

## ALTERNATIVE 3 — PRESERVATION EMPHASIS

### CONCEPT

The restoration, protection, and preservation of natural and cultural resources would be emphasized under this alternative — instead of providing a wide spectrum of visitor experiences (the opposite emphasis from alternative 4). In-depth interpretation would be provided only in ways that would not affect sensitive resources, and education programs would emphasize the public’s role in resource protection. Major developments would be focused along U.S. Highways 101 and 199 and outside the parks. The relocation of facilities now in areas that have sensitive resources, and the restoration of the sites, would be considered. No new impacts would be allowed in areas with sensitive resources. New visitor services and facilities in other areas of the parks would be limited to those that protect the public and the resources. Most new visitor services and facilities would be

provided outside the parks (see Alternative 3 Management Zoning and Alternative 3 **General Plan** maps). The issue statements and goals, which are the same for all alternatives, are not repeated in alternatives 2, 3, and 4; please refer to alternative 1. (maps **a, b, c**)

### MANAGEMENT ZONES

Under this alternative, the area of developed zone is the least, and the area of primitive zone in which no development or facilities are permitted is the greatest of any alternative (see following table). Approximately 23 miles of trails would remain in the primitive zone under this zoning alternative, and no new trails would be constructed in the primitive zone, including 60 miles of trails that have been proposed in previous planning documents.

**TABLE 5: MANAGEMENT ZONES, ALTERNATIVE 3**

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

### Objectives

- Ensure that all resource management efforts are consistent with and supportive of the perpetuation of all ecosystem processes and components, including the redwood forest ecosystem as the prime RNSP resource as well as the marine, coastal strand, dune and prairie, riparian and wetland, Douglas-fir and spruce forest, stream, oak woodland, and serpentine ecosystems.
- Restore and maintain all RNSP ecosystems as they would have evolved without disturbance by modern technology and perpetuate ongoing natural influences.
- Actively participate in land use decisions for activities such as logging, mining, and the development of highways and subdivisions adjacent to the parks to minimize impacts on RNSP resources.
- Protect all threatened, endangered, and rare species and rare natural communities.
- Acquire baseline information on all biological and physical environments of the parks and monitor key environmental factors over time to determine the effects of human activities and influences on both local and bioregional levels.
- Aggressively pursue remedies to prevent theft and commercial exploitation of RNSP resources.

### Actions

#### *Watershed Management and Restoration in and upstream of the Parks*

##### Actions.

*Within the National Park* — About 9.4 miles of major roads and 99 miles of associated minor roads would be treated per year. Complete land-form restoration would be accomplished. This approach would require 16.6 years to treat 155 miles of major roads and 1,643 miles of minor roads.

*Upstream of the National Park* — Depending on opportunities offered by property owners and the availability of nonpark resources, up to 54 miles of roads would be treated per year upstream of the national park. Road decommissioning and erosion prevention would be emphasized. This approach would require 17 years to treat the existing 911 miles (85% of 1,100 miles) of logging roads.

#### *Watershed Management and Restoration in Redwood Creek Estuary*

**Actions.** In the lower Redwood Creek valley, estuarine ecosystem plant and animal communities, hydrologic and biological processes, and adjacent creeks and sloughs would be restored to naturally functioning, pre-levee and pre-breaching conditions. The lower 0.6 mile of the federal flood control levees would be removed if the land needed to restore the estuary was acquired from willing sellers. Water level manipulation (controlled breaching and channel manipulation) to conserve salmonid habitat and protect the Redwood Information Center would be discontinued.

#### *Vegetation Management*

**Actions.** Action items would be as follows.

*Second-Growth Forest Management* — Silvicultural methods would be used in second-growth forests to shorten the time in which the forests reattained characteristics and processes found in mature, naturally occurring forest. Managing those second-growth stands that are critical to ecosystem restoration would be emphasized. A plan for managing second growth would be prepared and accompanied by appropriate environmental compliance documents.

*Prairie Restoration* — After evaluation, naturally occurring prairies, as well as prairies and oak woodlands maintained by American Indians through burning would be restored; they would be maintained by reestablishing a historic fire regime. Also, selected forest openings would be maintained for the resource values present (e.g., wildlife habitat, cultural values, or aesthetics).

## VARIOUS ZONES OF MINIMAL AREA — ALTERNATIVE 3

Some relatively small areas of the parks (shown as triangles on the previous management zone maps) have been zoned differently than their surrounding areas. To more clearly identify these areas and make it easy to know what zone these small areas are in, the following list has been developed.

AREA	ZONE
Jedediah Smith small satellite operations area	Developed
Stout Grove	Frontcountry
Mill Creek trail and Nickerson Ranch trail	Backcountry mechanized
Boy Scout Tree trail	Backcountry mechanized
Camp Lincoln	Frontcountry
Aubell Ranch	Developed
Howland Hill Outdoor School	Developed
Crescent Beach Education Center	Developed
Nickel Creek primitive campground and trail from Enderts Beach Road	Backcountry mechanized
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park small satellite operations area	Developed
Damnation Creek	Cultural
DeMartin primitive campground	Backcountry mechanized
Redwood Hostel	Developed
Wilson Creek	Frontcountry
Lagoon Creek picnic area	Frontcountry
Flint Ridge primitive campground	Backcountry mechanized
Fern Canyon trailhead	Backcountry nonmechanized
Espa Lagoon	Developed
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park visitor center	Developed
Prairie Creek small satellite operations area	Developed
Elk Prairie campground	Frontcountry
Wolf Creek Outdoor School complex	Developed
Prairie Creek fish hatchery	Cultural
Lost Man Creek trailhead/picnic area	Frontcountry
Redwood Creek trailhead	Frontcountry
South Operations Center	Frontcountry
Redwood Information Center	Frontcountry
Redwood Creek overlook	Frontcountry
Ganns Prairie	Cultural
Dolason trailhead	Frontcountry
Tall Trees Grove parking and trailhead	Frontcountry
Radio repeater	Developed
Lyons Ranch trailhead	Frontcountry
Schoolhouse Peak	Developed

***Fire Management*** — An aggressive fire program would be established that emphasizes restoring the natural fire regime to the greatest extent possible even if it causes temporary inconvenience to visitors or temporary reduction of visitor enjoyment. The fire program would use prescribed fire and wildland fire to support land use and resource management objectives, including the restoration of fire as a natural process in old-growth forest ecosystems.

### ***Artificial Impoundments***

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**Actions.** All dams, except those that are contributing elements of significant cultural landscapes, would be removed, and stream channels would be restored. The stock watering structures in the Bald Hills are the dams or impoundments most likely to be contributing elements of these cultural landscapes; Marshall Pond and Lagoon Creek dams, the fire protection ponds in logged areas, and blocked drainages in logged areas are not contributing elements of cultural landscapes and would be removed.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION**

### **Objectives**

- Emphasize scientific research and resource preservation as primary goals of the cultural resources program.
- Enhance relationships with other agencies and organizations to increase study of the cultural history of the region.
- Continue positive relationships with American Indians, working in a government-to-government capacity and through consultations.
- Emphasize sharing preservation research activities and cultural resources information with tribes.
- Enhance the coordination of the natural and cultural resources management programs, particularly scientific study of the application of traditional American Indian practices to resource management activities.

- Orient treatment of cultural resources toward preservation and protection; de-emphasize visitor use and interpretation.

### **Actions**

Note: Under this alternative, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails, as well as camping and picnicking sites, would be removed from sensitive resource areas; the Cal-Barrel Road, Greater Coastal Drive, and Tall Trees access road would be converted to trails; and the CDPR administrative facilities would be removed from Elk Prairie. These actions, which could affect cultural resources, are described in other sections of this alternative and are not addressed further in the following discussion.

### ***Historic Resources — Structures***

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**Actions.** Historic structures would be stabilized, protected, and preserved as appropriate. Although options for the parks' historic structures would include adaptive rehabilitation and the historic property leasing program, emphasis would be placed upon their preservation. Historic structures could also be used as discovery sites, with minimal or no onsite interpretation.

### ***Historic Resources — Cultural Landscapes***

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**Actions.** The actions would be the same as described in alternative 1.

### ***Ethnographic Resources***

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**Actions.** The actions would be the same as described in alternative 1.

### ***Collections***

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**Actions.** Collection storage would be expanded to provide adequate museum work space and storage needs for the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resource collections. Storage and work locations would be based on research, resource management, and security needs.

Staff would prioritize collections processing work according to whether materials were specifically related to resource preservation and defer all requests for access to collections until all materials were properly processed.

Computer-based access to archival records would be developed to provide access for RNSP staff and the public.

## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

### Objectives

- Provide in-depth interpretation only in ways that would not affect old-growth forests, wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species, cultural sites, and other sensitive resources.
- Develop a personal services and nonpersonal (brochures, wayside exhibits, etc.) services program that would emphasize the preservation of RNSP resources and the resolution of resource management issues rather than general RNSP information.
- Provide new visitor facilities and services outside the parks.
- Maintain the outdoor school program for regional kindergarten through 12th-grade students in spring and fall with a major emphasis on natural resources.

### Actions

#### Orientation/Information

**Action.** Most visitor orientation and information would continue to be provided through personal services and interpretive publications and in conjunction with regional partners. Activities would be provided only in the parks' developed areas. Preservation themes would be stressed.

#### Interpretation

**Actions.** Action items would be as follows.

Interpretive operations and media would be used to provide a balance of general and preservation information about natural and cultural history topics. Research and resource management actions would be explored in depth and fully supported. Most of the parks' visitors would receive in-depth interpretation of primary interpretive themes through a new primary visitor center and additional publications and programs. Visitors would be provided limited opportunities to see sensitive resources. Some limited additional opportunities would be available for visitors to enjoy sensitive resources, such as old-growth redwood forests, wetlands, floodplains, prairies, and sites related to American Indian culture; however, visitor use would be carefully managed to protect these resources.

Interpretive operations and media would be used in the Bald Hills area to provide a balance of preservation and general information about old-growth forest management, second-growth forest management, watershed resources, prairie vegetation, and human use. Visitors would have limited opportunities to see and enjoy sensitive resource sites in the Bald Hills area.

#### Information, Orientation, and Interpretive Centers

**Actions.** Action items would be as follows.

Visitor Centers — A primary visitor center would be constructed outside the parks along Highway 101 or 199, but preferably in the southern part of the parks.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park visitor center would be retained. The small visitor center at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park would be removed, and information on the state park would be provided through the Crescent City information center.

Information Centers — The interpretive functions at Redwood Information Center would be relocated to the new primary visitor center. The facility would be salvaged, and the site would be converted to day use with interpretive opportunities including beach access, boardwalks, and wayside exhibits. (The Redwood

Information Center is in the tsunami zone; see the “Public Safety” chapter in the “Affected Environment” for more information.).

The small information center at RNSP headquarters in Crescent City would be retained. The Hiouchi information center would be removed, and the services would be provided through the Crescent City information center. Information for Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park would be provided through the Crescent City information center, although the current entrance station at this state park would be retained.

### ***Outdoor Schools***

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**Action.** The two outdoor schools would continue to be operated, primarily in fall and spring, for regional kindergarten through 12th-grade students. The education centers would incorporate natural and cultural resource management issues and methods into the curriculum.

## **PUBLIC USE, RECREATION, AND VISITOR SAFETY**

### **Objectives**

- Support appropriate public use and enjoyment of the parks, but emphasize activities that will generate public appreciation of and support for the parks’ resources.
- Provide opportunities for public access to RNSP resources in places and ways that would result in minimal impact on the parks’ resources and values.
- Manage public use primarily to protect resources; ensure that public use activities are consistent with NPS and CDPR regulations and policies.
- Ensure public safety largely through cooperative efforts with neighboring jurisdictions.
- Conduct carrying capacity analyses and develop detailed action plans, including public use limits where necessary, to prevent adverse impacts on resources resulting from public use.

- Develop a backcountry management plan to manage public use of the parks’ backcountry, provide guidance concerning the development of trails and other backcountry facilities, and establish limits on equestrian and mountain bike use and camping.
- Limit public access to sensitive resources, such as old-growth redwoods, cultural sites, and wetlands, and emphasize off-site interpretive techniques and programs to educate the public about the parks and their resources.
- Standardize NPS and CDPR public use policies where practicable, especially those affecting the protection of resources.
- Limit commercial services primarily to developed areas.
- Limit facilities primarily to developed areas adjacent to roads; remove facilities in sensitive resource areas such as old-growth forests, wetlands, and prairies, and at sites that are of importance to American Indians.
- Provide trail access primarily to resources in the immediate vicinity of developed areas; limit new trail development.

### **Actions**

#### ***Visitor Use Levels***

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**Actions.** Visitor use would be limited so that there would be minimal impacts on resources and their values.

Vehicle access to the Tall Trees Grove would be closed, the parking area would be removed, and the area would be restored. Trail access would remain.

At the Lady Bird Johnson and Stout Groves, a carrying capacity analysis would be conducted to identify indicators and standards, and a monitoring program would be developed and implemented. (See the discussion on “Public Use, Recreation, and Visitor Use” in the “Actions Common to All Alternatives” chapter for further description of the carrying capacity analysis process.) Visitor use in these groves would be managed, and facilities, including the trailhead and parking area in the Johnson Grove, would be modified based on the carrying capacity analysis and monitoring results.

At Fern Canyon, the parking area would be relocated farther south out of the stream channel. Enderts Beach Road would be converted to day use. The Crescent Beach picnic area and associated facilities would be removed and the area restored.

Visitors would not be directed to cultural sites that are of importance to American Indians or that have resources that could easily be damaged.

### **Recreational Activities**

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**Actions.** A backcountry management plan would be prepared that would specify the location of camping areas and describe RNSP policies and rules for use of backcountry areas by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The backcountry management plan would be guided by the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences of the appropriate management zones. Other action items would be as follows.

*Campgrounds with Access by Vehicles* — Campsites in sensitive resource areas in the state parks, such as in old-growth forest, prairies, or floodplains or near wetlands or sites that are important to American Indians, would be considered for removal and relocation. Campgrounds that are accessible by vehicles would not be constructed in the Bald Hills area.

*Primitive Camping* — Primitive camping would be restricted to existing designated sites. Sites that are in sensitive resource areas (see above) or that are easily damaged by human use would be removed and relocated. Primitive camping opportunities would not be provided in the Coyote Creek basin. Camping would be allowed in the Redwood Creek corridor and on the designated west side horse camps as under alternative 2. Random hiker camping would not be allowed on either the east side or the west side of the Redwood Creek basin.

*Hiking* — Sections of trails in sensitive resource areas (see above) would be removed or relocated. The maintenance of hiking trails would be emphasized rather than the construction of new trails.

A comprehensive trail plan would be developed for the federal and state parks that would be regional in focus. This plan would be consistent with the state parks' mission and the goals identified in this joint plan. This new trail plan would take the place of the 1984 *Redwood National Park Backcountry Trail Plan*.

*Equestrian Use* — Sections of equestrian trails that are in sensitive resource areas (see above) would be removed, relocated, or redesigned. No new equestrian trails would be developed.

*Mountain Biking* — Sections of mountain bike trails in sensitive resource areas (see above) would be removed, relocated, or redesignated. No new mountain bike trails would be developed.

*Picnic Sites at Bald Hills* — These picnic sites and associated facilities would be considered for removal.

### **Freshwater Spit Visitor Use**

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**Actions.** In this area overnight camping would be eliminated and the area would be designated only for day use. Freshwater Spit users would be able to use the restrooms at the adjacent Redwood Creek picnic area.

### **Vehicles on the Beach**

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**Actions.** NPS and CDPR regulations prohibiting off-road vehicle use (see alternative 1 under this topic) would be enforced throughout the parks, resulting in the elimination of all off-road vehicle use other than that which is essential to provide access for commercial surf fishing and traditional American Indian fishing/gathering activities. Off-road vehicle use associated with commercial surf fishing at Freshwater Spit, Gold Bluffs Beach, and Crescent Beach would continue until the year 2001, but by permit only. Only permits issued in 1996 would be renewed, and no new permits would be issued. Off-road vehicle use on beaches in connection with traditional American Indian fishing/gathering activities that are consistent with the purposes of the parks would continue at Gold Bluffs Beach under a CDPR permit system. Vehicle use

would be managed to prevent resource damage and minimize public use conflicts.

### ***Concessions***

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**Action.** Before recommending any new provision of public services by private vendor, consideration would be made of the quality and type of existing services, public demand/need, the ability of the resources to support such services, and the economic viability of providing such services. In this alternative no change in policy would be anticipated — horse and hostel concessions in the parks would continue. Private concession services would be recommended, consistent with natural and cultural resource requirements, in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

## **VISITOR ACCESS AND CIRCULATION / ROADS**

### **Objectives**

- Administer the roads in the parks under NPS and CDPR jurisdiction to facilitate and enhance visitors' leisurely enjoyment of the parks' resources and public use facilities rather than to cater to the needs of through traffic.
- Ensure that RNSP roads relate simply and harmoniously with the topography and surrounding environment; these roads would often be more narrow and winding and have lower speed limits than roads outside parks
- Provide safe opportunities for visitors to see scenic vistas and other points of interest, enjoy interpretive displays, and gain access to trails, picnic areas and other recreation facilities along RNSP roads.
- Provide distinctive and unobtrusive signs to orient, guide, and inform visitors.
- Repair or relocate roads that adversely affect fragile resources or that are significant visual intrusions or convert them to trails if appropriately located for a trail; consider converting to trails those roads that are on unstable ground and that have deteriorated seriously only if the trail can be stabilized to avoid further resource damage and maintenance problems.

- Use bicycle lanes, alternative transportation systems, one-way roads, and vehicle size limits as appropriate to ensure public safety and visitor enjoyment.

- Use methods such as limiting the size of parking facilities, using mass transit, establishing public use limits and permit systems, and closing and converting roads to trails to limit the number of people or vehicles allowed in sensitive sites such as floodplains, wetlands, cultural sites, and old-growth forests.
- Depend on U.S. highways within the parks — to be managed and maintained by state and federal transportation agencies — to serve as the primary access routes to the parks.
- Depend on Del Norte and Humboldt Counties to manage and maintain county roads in the parks that provide access to nonpark lands and that serve the general public in addition to RNSP visitors.
- Work cooperatively with the agencies having primary jurisdiction on these U.S., state, and county roadways to promote public safety, to enhance opportunities for travelers to enjoy scenic vistas and gain access to park resources and facilities, and to protect RNSP resources adjacent to the roadways.
- Consider entering into agreements with county agencies to manage and maintain those county roads in the parks that are in good structural condition, that provide access exclusively to parklands, and that serve primarily RNSP visitors.
- Design, construct, and maintain RNSP roads that provide access from state highways or county roads to RNSP facilities so that they are sustainable, provide safe access for visitors and employees, and minimize the disruption of traffic on through highways.

### **Actions**

#### ***Bald Hills Road***

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Humboldt County would be encouraged to maintain this road as a low-speed rural access to an area of diverse natural and cultural landscapes. A few spectacular scenic vistas would be available, along with limited opportunities to pull off the road and enjoy scenic overlooks and interpretive exhibits and hiking. The National



Park Service would provide opportunities for visitors to observe and appreciate a variety of natural and cultural resource management projects.

#### **Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway**

The prairie section of the parkway road would be relocated to restore the integrity of the prairie. The parkway would continue to be operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, with special operational/maintenance requirements defined by Caltrans. (The scale of this relocation is too small to show on the alternative or management zone maps.)

#### **Davison Road – Gold Bluffs Beach Road to Fern Canyon**

More environmentally sound and less intrusive access, such as shuttle service, would be provided to Fern Canyon. Note: All actions depend on agreements with the county.

#### **Cal-Barrel Road**

The road would be removed and a trail would be constructed.

#### **Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park Entrance**

The park entrance and entrance station would be retained. Access improvements would be made to improve circulation into park.

#### **Stout Grove**

The parking area would be reduced.

#### **Howland Hill Road**

During the peak visitor season, the road would be a one-way road. Eroded areas would be improved. This road would not be recommended for large trailers and motor homes.

#### **Tall Trees Grove Access Road**

The road would be removed, and access would be only by trail.

#### **Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park Entrance**

The entrance road and entrance station off Highway 101 would be retained. Also, the drainage would be improved and the erosion potential would be treated.

#### **Greater Coastal Drive**

The road would be closed and converted to a trail.

#### **Enderts Beach Road**

The road would be converted to day use.

## **INTERDEPENDENCE OF PARKS AND COMMUNITY**

### **Objectives**

- Support sustainable economic development, the preservation of community values, and the availability of appropriate visitor services in local communities that serve as gateways to the parks.
- Participate as partners with those communities and local organizations in projects and initiatives that have mutual benefit and that enhance the levels of appreciation and protection of RNSP resources.
- Encourage the development of appropriate sustainable visitor service facilities in local communities.
- Participate actively in local educational and public safety programs and cooperate with local agencies and private interests in land use and transportation planning for areas adjacent to the parks.

### **Actions**

#### **Lodge/Accommodations**

**Actions.** The National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation would encourage the private sector and/or tribal

partners to build an appropriate lodge outside the parks.

### **Viewshed Protection**

**Actions.** Action items would be as follows.

*Scenic Corridors* — Lands or interests in lands within the scenic corridor along Highway 101 north of Orick would be acquired as they became available to preserve scenic views and protect the parks' values.

*Viewsheds* — Important visual areas would be identified, and RNSP staff would work with local governments and conservation organizations to protect these areas. RNSP staff would support efforts to improve visual quality, such as putting powerlines underground and initiating reforestation projects.

### **Adjacent Land Uses**

**Actions.** RNSP staff would encourage others to minimize activities on adjacent land that would result in impacts on RNSP lands. Staff would also support and encourage land uses on adjacent lands that would preclude land uses that are inconsistent with the parks' values. Staff would also develop criteria for compatible development and uses next to RNSP boundaries. Adverse impacts from adjacent land uses would be mitigated.

### **Gateway Communities**

**Actions.** RNSP staff would actively support and assist local communities in efforts to foster appropriate and sustainable economic development, to develop infrastructure needed for community development and RNSP facilities, and to develop services and facilities that support tourism and provide connections between the communities and the parks. The staff would also provide technical assistance to communities, communicate support to agencies that authorize and fund development projects, and participate as partners in situations where mutual conserva

tion, visitor service, or development objectives would be achieved.

RNSP staff would cooperate with local communities and organizations to ensure that public information and orientation services were coordinated and provided in convenient locations.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES**

### **Objectives**

- Limit administrative facilities within the parks to the minimum necessary to provide effective levels of protection for RNSP resources.
- Construct new facilities on private land outside the parks or in developed areas within the parks, with an emphasis on providing adequate facilities for conducting scientific studies and curatorial activities, resource protection activities, and maintenance activities that support resource management programs.
- Remove facilities on newly acquired lands unless they were considered essential for resource management or resource protection purposes.
- Place a major emphasis on consolidating CDPR and NPS facilities.
- Sustainably design new or rehabilitated facilities and construct them in appropriate locations to minimize adverse resource impacts and visual intrusions.
- Remove facilities inappropriately located in floodplains, wetlands, or other sensitive resource areas; noncontributing structures located in cultural landscapes, and any facility excess to the parks' needs.
- Operate and maintain all facilities so as to minimize the consumption of energy and conserve nonrenewable fuels.
- Use renewable sources of energy and energy-efficient technology where appropriate and cost-effective.
- Provide housing only to RNSP staff essential to protect RNSP resources.

## Actions

### ***Operations Facilities (Maintenance, Ranger Activities, and Fire Protection)***

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**Actions.** Opportunities would be pursued for NPS, CDPR, and other agency facilities to be consolidated and located outside the parks where practicable and cost-effective. NPS and CDPR facilities would be consolidated inside the parks wherever practical. RNSP headquarters would remain in the current facility in Crescent City. NPS primary maintenance facilities would continue to be in Requa, with some consolidation of CDPR maintenance facilities there; utilities and facilities at Requa would be upgraded and improved. CDPR primary maintenance facilities would remain at Aubell Ranch. Resource management staff offices in the South Operations Center and leased resource management staff offices in Arcata would be relocated to a GSA built-to-specification facility outside the parks in the Orick area. NPS and CDPR protection staff offices would be consolidated at the Aubell Ranch site in the north and, to the extent practicable, at the facility in the Orick area in the south.

Fire protection facilities would continue to be at Hiouchi in the north and Wolf Creek in the south; however, the National Park Service would consider moving the Wolf Creek fire cache and equipment into the Orick area facility. Interpretation staff offices would remain in the Crescent Beach Education Center in the north and in the Redwood Information Center in the south until the new primary visitor center was built. Small satellite facilities would continue in each state park unit to support operations in those areas.

CDPR administrative facilities in the northeast portion of Elk Prairie in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park would be removed when the opportunity to relocate them to the Orick area and/or to consolidate them with NPS facilities arose, including two 1950s residences, a barn/shed used to house vehicles and supplies, some seasonal cabins, a shop, a maintenance office, a storage area, and a gas shed; one

historic house would be kept as a ranger residence.

The Schoolhouse Peak fire lookout would be retained for fire protection and evaluated for other administrative or public uses. It would be removed when no longer needed.

### ***Housing***

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**Actions.** Most RNSP employees and volunteers would live in local communities. NPS housing would continue to be retained in the Hiouchi, Orick, Wolf Creek, and Bald Hills areas. A single unit of CDPR housing would continue to be at both Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks. The Boyes House at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park would be retained for use by emergency services staff, and the Gold Bluffs Beach residence would remain as required housing (for the ranger assigned to Gold Bluffs Beach). NPS housing at Crescent Beach would be removed when no longer needed. Single-family housing at Requa would be removed and sites restored.

## LAND ACQUISITION

### **Objectives**

- Acquire the minimum interest in lands necessary to meet management objectives described under management zoning.
- Use the most practical and cost-effective method of acquisition to manage land for public use and protect RNSP resources and values, including any combination of fee or less-than-fee options or cooperation with landowners; federal agencies; state, tribal, or local governments, and the private sector.
- Acquire the minimum interest in lands necessary to meet the intent of Congress to protect downstream RNSP resources from adverse impacts of upstream land uses and, in the scenic corridor, to provide an appropriate gateway to the parks.
- Acquire interests in lands necessary to preserve or protect significant RNSP resources and values.

## Actions

### Actions for Federal Lands

The current program to acquire lands or interests in lands with significant resource, scenic, or public use values would continue as opportunities arose. However, because the legislated Redwood National Park boundary is limited to 106,000 acres, exclusive of submerged lands and publicly owned highways and roads, future acquisitions could not result in total acreage exceeding that figure without legislation authorizing an increase in the acreage ceiling. Any future federal land acquisitions would be analyzed according to relevant boundary revision criteria, which include any or all of the following:

- The proposed acquisition includes significant resources or opportunities for public enjoyment that are both related to purposes of the parks.
- The proposal addresses operational and management issues such as access and boundary identification by topographic or other natural features or roads.
- The potential acquisition protects RNSP resources that are critical to fulfilling the parks' purposes.

In addition, recommendations to expand the boundary and acquire additional lands would be preceded by determinations that the added lands will be feasible to administer considering size, configuration, ownership, costs, and other factors, and that other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

As stated in the "Boundary Map Adjustments" section, future acquisitions would be included in the legislated national park boundary by publishing a revised drawing or boundary description in the *Federal Register*.

### Actions for State Lands

The current program to acquire lands or interests in lands with significant resource, scenic, or public use values would continue as opportunities arose.

## STATE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

### Objectives

- Evaluate lands for designation as wilderness consistent with and supportive of the perpetuation of the redwood forest ecosystem as the prime resource of the parks.

### Actions

A state wilderness area would be proposed for a portion of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to conform to the general boundary described as south of U.S. Highway 199 and Hatton Trail, west of Hiouchi and Mill Creek Trails, north of the southern state park boundary, and east of the western state park boundary. A transportation corridor for Howland Hill road would be excepted from this general boundary.

A state wilderness area would be proposed for a portion of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park to conform to the general boundary described as south of the Ossagon Trail, west of the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, north of the southern Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park boundary, and east of Davison Road/Gold Bluffs Beach Road and the Coastal Trail.

Another state wilderness area would be proposed for a portion of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park to conform to the general boundary described as south of the northern boundary and U.S. Highway 101, west of Highway 101, north of Township 15 North, and east of the Pacific Ocean.